

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018850 TOSEC 010251

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT:STATEMENT FOR CLARK SUBCOMMITTEE

REF: STATE 017879(TOSEC 010212), STATE 017951
(TOSEC 010221)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AF - SCHAUFLE

1. AS H HAS INFORMED YOU THE HOUSE IS NOW EXPECTED TO PASS JANUARY 27 THE DOD APPROPRIATION BILL INCLUDING THE TUNNEY AMENDMENT. IN YOUR STATEMENT YOU WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FACT OR DECIDE WHETHER TO INFORM THEM THAT WE WILL PROPOSE OVERT FUNDING. THE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BELOW REFLECTS THAT POSSIBILITY.

I APPEAR HERE TWO DAYS AFTER THE HOUSE HAS JOINED THE SENATE IN PASSING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL CONTAINING AN AMENDMENT WHICH DENIES US THE TOOLS TO CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH DISMAYS OUR FRIENDS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE, WHICH CASTS DOUBT ON OUR WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE INTER-
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NATIONAL LEADERSHIP YOU YOURSELVES DEMAND OF THE UNITED

STATES AND WHICH GIVES OUR ADVERSARIES A GREEN LIGHT TO INTERVENE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE US HAS NO DEFENSE COMMITMENT.

MANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND WE, IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, WELCOME THAT ATTITUDE. BUT DETENTE CANNOT BE BROKEN DOWN INTO THOSE SEGMENTS WHICH THE SOVIETS WILL HONOR AND THOSE WHICH WE WILL ALLOW THEM TO IGNORE. WITHOUT MUTUAL RESTRAINT, WHICH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF DETENTE, IN SUCH PLACES AS ANGOLA, WHERE NEITHER THE SOVIET UNION NOR THE US HAS ANY HISTORIC OR VITAL INTEREST, DETENTE BECOMES SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OF THE SOVIET UNION WHICH WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS ACCORDING TO ANY MOMENTARY ADVANTAGE IT PERCEIVES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME. THE ACTION OF THE CONGRESS ONLY LEADS THEM TO ACT IN JUST THAT WAY. I SAY NOW WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE. THE SOVIET PERCEPTION OF OUR LACK OF RESOLVE WILL ENCOURAGE IT TO ENGAGE IN SIMILAR INTERVENTIONS IN THE FUTURE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THESE COUNTRIES WHICH BECOME SOVIET TARGETS. AND BECAUSE OF OUR LACK OF DETERMINATION THE SOVIETS WILL MISCALCULATE AT SOME TIME AND WE MAY BE PLUNGED INTO A MAJOR CONFRONTATION WHICH NEITHER OF US WANTS.

THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND-AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REPORTS AS WELL AS MANY FOREIGN NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS - THAT THE SENATE ACTION OF DECEMBER 19 RAISED SERIOUS DOUBTS IN AFRICA, IN WESTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE ABOUT WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO EXERCIZE ITS WORLD LEADERSHIP AND ABOUT WHETHER IT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIET ADVENTURES NOT ONLY IN ANGOLA BUT ELSEWHERE. IF THERE WERE A POSSIBILITY TO RESOLVE THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT ON THE BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS THE SENATE ACTION TOLD OUR ADVERSARIES THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT US OPPOSITION TO THEIR AMBITIONS.

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT STAKES INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PRESENTING TO THE CONGRESS A PROPOSAL FOR OVERT ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA, ASSISTANCE WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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IS DESIGNED, AS IT HAS BEEN UP TO NOW, TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER THE PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF A CONFLICT WHICH WOULD CORRESPOND WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND MEET AFRICAN CONCERNS FOR REGIONAL STABILITY AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY ON THAT LEGISLATION. SISCO

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